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INFORMATION REPORT

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1. It is becoming quite apparent that all plans to discontinue the Taegliche Rundschau have been dropped by the Russian authorities in East Germany. On 24 October 1953, all Russian and German section chiefs were invited to a special briefing session by the Soviet High Commissioner for Germany, V. S. Semyonov. The session was conducted as an internal press conference and plans were discussed as to what should be done about the paper. It seems that the present tight Russian control over the paper is to be maintained. The only new feature is that particular emphasis is to be given to all-German questions. Following this conference, the German editor of the All-German Department, Theodor Schulze, prepared a memorandum in German addressed to Semyonov, in which the proposition was submitted to dedicate to all-German questions a whole page of the paper. For some reason, this proposition is considered as highly confidential. The memorandum, written by Schulze, was signed by Bernikov and forwarded immediately to Semyonov.

2. There is no indication that the Russian personnel is to be diminished or gradually replaced by Germans. The entire Russian staff is being maintained and even a new editor has been added. He is J. Nikolayev,

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3. The Russian editor-in-chief, Sokolov, has not yet come back from his annual leave in the USSR. He and his deputy, Pestov (fnu), who is also on leave, are expected to return in early December 1953. At the present time, Bernikov is acting as editor-in-chief, sharing his work and responsibilities with the German editor-in-chief, Grandy (fnu). 25X1

[redacted]

4. Apparently on instructions from higher quarters, the paper has initiated a new program for the responsible German editorial personnel under which certain key figures are being sent to the USSR for training and orientation courses. At the present time, the German editor of the Foreign Relations Section, Franz-Xaver Philipp, is completing such a study tour. He left for Moscow on 31 October 1953 and was expected to return after approximately four weeks. His precise itinerary is not known.

5. No significant changes of German personnel have occurred in the last weeks. The only person who left employment with the Taegliche Rundschau is the secretary, Gisela Schulze. She will now work for a new magazine to be published by the Berliner Verlag.

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